

Application No. 09/881,361
Amendment dated November 23, 2004

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0004] with the following amended paragraph:

[0004] Another common form for the added weight component has been a metallic plug installed ~~into~~ within the axial bore formed by the hollow shaft of the club, where it joins to the club head's hosel. Such shaft weight plugs also have been formed of alternative materials such as metallic powder dispersed within a compressible binder and housed within a sheath. Although generally effective in providing the club head with the desired weight, such ~~metallic~~ shaft weight plugs sometimes can loosen and cause undesired rattling during the club's use. Also, if the need ever arises to replace the club's shaft, the shaft weight plug will necessarily be removed with the old shaft and an equivalent weight might not be installed in its place when the new shaft is attached to the club head.

Please replace paragraphs [00015] and [00016] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0015] With reference now to the illustrative drawings, and particularly to FIGS. 1-3, there is shown a metal wood-type golf club 10 having a hollow club head 12 that is specially weighted to a desired value. The club head 12 is manufactured by any of a number of suitable techniques. For example, the club head 12 can include a main body 14 and a face plate 16, which are formed separately and then joined together by suitable means, such as welding. The main body 14 defines a sole 18, a crown 20, a toe 22, and a heel 24, which cooperate to define an opening sized to match the peripheral shape of the face plate 16. The main body 14 can be formed by any suitable means, such as casting, and the face plate 16 likewise can be formed by any suitable means, such as cold forming a rolled sheet.

[0016] A hosel 26 located at the heel 24 of the club head's main body 14 defines an elongated cavity 28 for receiving the lower end of a shaft 30. This cavity 28 includes a lower cylindrical portion 32a and an aligned upper cylindrical portion 32b. An upward-facing annular ledge 34 thereby is defined between the lower and upper cylindrical portions 32a, 32b.

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Please replace paragraphs [00018] and [00019] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0018] In accordance with the invention, the weight of the club head 12 is adjusted to the desired value by installing a special hosel plug 36 into the lower cylindrical portion 32a of the hosel cavity 28. The hosel plug 36 is selected from a group of several hosel plugs, which range in mass between the minimum and maximum values that might be required to bring the combined head/plug weight to the desired value. Typically, a suitable range of values will be from about 0.5 g to about 6.5 g. The particular hosel plug to be selected is determined simply by weighing the club head 12 and subtracting that value from the desired club head weight.

[0019] All of the hosel plugs 36 in the group of hosel plugs have substantially the same shape and dimensions, which preferably corresponds to the size of the lower cylindrical portion 32a of the hosel cavity 28. Such a hosel plug 36 is depicted in detail in FIG. 4. Different weights for the individual hosel plugs are provided by varying the plugs' compositions.

Please replace paragraph [00021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] A range of weights for the group of hosel plugs is provided by varying the relative proportions of the metallic powder and the compliant polymeric material in each. The lightest hosel plug can incorporate as little as 0% tungsten, and the heaviest hosel plug can incorporate as much as 96% tungsten, with the balance in each case being nylon. By way of example, the combinations set forth in Table 1 can be provided.

Please replace paragraphs [00022] through [00024] with the following amended paragraphs:

[0022] In use, the selected hosel plug 36 is installed into the club head 12 simply by inserting it into the cavity 28 of the hosel 26, where it fits snugly into the cavity's lower cylindrical portion 32a. A bevel 38 at the hosel plug's lower end facilitates this insertion. In the hosel plug's installed position, the compliant polymeric material is slightly compressed, to secure the hosel plug 36 in place by an interference fit. The upper end of the hosel plug 36 projects

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slightly above the ledge 34 defined between the cavity's lower and upper cylindrical portions 32a and 32b, respectively.

[0023] When the golf club 10 is constructed using a hosel plug 36 selected from the group of hosel plugs specified in Table 1, the hosel plugs are cylindrical, with a diameter of about 8.5 mm and a length of about 10.5 mm. In that case, the lower cylindrical portion 32a of the hosel cavity 28 has a diameter of 8.5 mm and a length of 10 mm, and the upper cylindrical portion 32b of the cavity has a diameter of 9.1 mm and a length of about 27 mm. Of course, if the hosel plug 36 incorporates a metallic material other than tungsten, e.g., iron, the preferred dimensions for the hosel plug 36 and for the lower and upper cylindrical portions 32a, 32b will change correspondingly. In an alternative configuration, the cavity's lower and upper cylindrical portions 32a, 32b could have the same diameters.

[0024] After the selected hosel plug 36 has been installed into the hosel cavity 28, the shaft 30 is installed above it. The lower end of the shaft 30 is generally cylindrical, with a diameter that matches the diameter of the cavity's upper cylindrical portion 32b. Before installing the shaft 30, a ferrule 40 is attached to the shaft's lower end by an interference fit. The ferrule 40 is positioned such that about 25 mm of the shaft projects below it a bottom portion of the ferrule. A suitable adhesive material, e.g., epoxy, then is injected into the hosel cavity 28, and the end of the lower end of the shaft 30 is inserted into the hosel cavity 28 until the ferrule's lower end abuts against the upper end of the hosel 26. A slight gap remains between the lower end of the shaft 30 and the upper end of the hosel plug 36, such gap being filled with the adhesive material. The lower end of the shaft 30 preferably is plugged, to prevent the adhesive material from entering the shaft 30 during the installation procedure.